

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00561 311726Z

43

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAM-01 /068 W

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O R 311659Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3849

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDEL JEC PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 561

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH POSITION ON PRG ISSUE AT LOW CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 0528

(B) STOCKHOLM 0414

(C) STOCKHOLM 0346

(D) STOCKHOLM 0526

1. IN ANSWER TO INTERPELLATION BY VIETNAM ACTIVIST
BIRGITTA DAHL IN RIKSDAG (REF B), FOREIGN MINISTER
ANDERSSON THIS AFTERNOON (JAN. 31) STATED THAT SWEDEN
WOULD NOT RPT NOT VOTE IN FAVOR OF PRG INVITATION TO
LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 00561 311726Z

CONFIRMS IMPLICATION BY MFA OFFICER (BERNER) YESTERDAY

TO DCM THAT GOS MIGHT NOT RPT NOT VOTE IN FAVOR OF PRG PARTICIPATION (REF A).

2. AS RATIONALE FOR NOT VOTING IN FAVOR OF INVITATION TO PRG, ANDERSSON SAID GOS "OBSERVES THE RULE THAT SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPATION WOULD AMOUNT TO DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION THAT THE (INVITED) GOVERNMENT REPRESENTS THE STATE IN QUESTION AND IS ABLE TO MEET OBLIGATIONS ON BEHALF OF THAT STATE. WITH REGARD TO SOUTH VIETNAM, WE FEEL THAT, AS IS EVIDENT ALSO FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT, NEITHER PARTY (SAIGON OR THE PRG) IS IN SUCH A POSITION." AT SAME TIME, ANDERSSON GAVE A SOP TO CRITICS OF THIEU GOVERNMENT BY ASSERTING THAT GOS "CONSIDERS IT INCORRECT THAT THE SAIGON REGIME IS INVITED TO REPRESENT SOUTH VIETNAM AND WILL STRESS THIS POINT OF VIEW AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE." FURTHERMORE, ANDERSSON SAID, GOS WILL PROPOSE THAT THE "TWO PARTIES" IN SOUTH VIETNAM BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE "AS OBSERVERS WITH THE RIGHT TO SPEAK AND PRESENT PROPOSALS."

3. MRS. DAHL, WHO SPOKE TO VIRTUALLY EMPTY CHAMBER (EXCEPT FOR FOREIGN MINISTER AND RIKSDAG OFFICIALS), COMPLAINED ABOUT THE VAGUENESS OF ANDERSSON'S REPLY. ANDERSSON REITERATED THAT GOS WILL STRIVE FOR PARITY BETWEEN SAIGON AND PRG DELEGATIONS--EITHER BOTH OR NONE SHOULD BE REPRESENTED, HE ASSERTED. DESPITE SEVERAL EFFORTS, MRS. DAHL WAS UNABLE TO ELICIT A MORE PRECISE STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

4. WITH REGARD TO QUESTION OF WHAT VOTING MAJORITY IS REQUIRED TO INVITE PRG, BERNER REAFFIRMED TO POLCOUNS THIS MORNING THAT GOS WILL SUPPORT PARA 4 OF RULE 35 AS APPLICABLE PROVISION, FOR REASONS STATED EARLIER BY MFA LEGAL ADVISOR BLIX (REF C).

5. COMMENT: DESPITE THE PROBABLE DELIBERATE AMBIGUITY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS AND THE OBFUSCATION OF ANTI-SAIGON THETORIC, IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT THE GOS DOES NOT INTEND TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF SEATING THE PRG AND WILL PRESUMABLY ADHERE TO ITS TRADITIONAL POLICY OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 00561 311726Z

ABSTENTION. THIS REPRESENTS A SHIFT FROM EARLIER INDICATIONS THAT THE GOS MIGHT SUPPORT PRG INVITATION TO LOW CONFERENCE (REF C). I BELIEVE OUR REACTION TO ANDERSSON SPEECH HAS HELPED THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO MODERATING ITS ACTIONS AT GENEVA.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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